

From: Chairman of London and South East Regional Ski Association. Nov 2005

I am taking this opportunity to explain why I believe that we need to modernise and why we need to scrutinise the modernisation process carefully and move forward as a united sport. In common with all of you, I am very conscious that we have made a considerable investment of ourselves in the sport. We must be satisfied that modernisation will reward this investment.

Why support the Proposed Modernisation Plan?

1. The status quo is not enough even if we kept the separate National Governing Bodies for England, Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland. They would need to modernise. Indeed Snowsport England has been going along that path for the past year or more. Sport England has provided specific funds to be used for this.

If we do not change we will lose ground rapidly to an increasingly competitive world and to other sports in the UK. We are not in the top 30 sports and any funding from government will be small compared to the amount needed to enable snowsports to prosper, unless we can tap into additional sources. It seems that many think that the future will be better if we act under one governing body not four.

Our current level of performance is not good enough. The challenge of the 2006 and 2010 Olympics means that we must find ways to improve. If we are to attract large sponsors for both elite and grassroots we need to produce results and expand our grassroots. I know, from discussions with sponsors, that they want to be involved at both ends of the market. To achieve this at present, sponsors have to talk to at least 2 governing bodies.

2. The government, although not a major player at grassroots does supply a large amount of funding at elite level. It is up to us to ensure that the grassroots prosper so that everyone has the opportunity to reach their personal goals and the elite athletes will still be there to show what can be done at national and international competitions. We must persuade any new administration that some of the funding they draw from major sponsorship/lottery and the exchequer should be passed down to the grassroots. We can also show that we are helping to meet government policy on health in the community by doing this.

3. As a regional chairman, skier, husband of a volunteer helper and father of an international athlete, turned coach, I do have a good understanding of the whole spectrum of snowsports. This understanding has grown as I have communicated with literally hundreds of grassroots people at our many Regional and National meetings whilst Chairman of Snowsport England.

I believe that we have a better chance of achieving our potential if we work together, since each sector is dependent upon the other. No individual or group should allow self-interest to override the best interest of our sport. It will be important that we agree about the things we hold dear like national identity even if we become one body. Do you wish Snowsport England to disappear entirely or do you see a role for it? It is your decision.

4. Our sport will always have to make do with scarce resources, but we must ensure that as many of those resources as possible reach the front line of our sport: i.e. athletes, coaches, clubs, officials and volunteer helpers. We must insist that this Modernisation Plan will divert very significant resources and autonomy to the Regions in order to achieve this.

5. We will have to set ourselves achievable targets and standards to work to. If these are not achieved people must be accountable. This applies to everyone, athletes, coaches, clubs and administrators. This Modernisation Plan proposes very substantial changes and we will need to ensure such accountability to the members is maintained at Regional, National and UK levels.

What is being proposed for the Modernisation Plan of Snowsports in the UK must be fully in accordance with these principles.

As you, **the clubs**, are the decision-makers in our sport, it is vital that you fully debate these Modernisation proposals and make a **whole club** decision whether to support them.

Above all, do not be a silent supporter; you have an opportunity to say what you want and when the time comes there will be the opportunity to vote. The 2010 Olympics will provide us with the best opportunity to show what can be achieved by working together, whether as a single UK body or as four separate governing bodies.

IT'S YOUR DECISION. IT'S YOUR SPORT

For more details go to our website www.lsera.org/modernisation